

WRITING

GENERAL DIRECTIONS

This test booklet contains two writing tasks. Read the two writing tasks carefully. Then choose **one** of the tasks to complete.

You will have 90 minutes to

- think about what you want to write;
- make notes, outline, web, map, cluster, brainstorm, or use any other prewriting/planning activity;
- write a draft of your paper;
- revise and edit your draft; and
- write the final copy of your paper in the writing task section of your Student Response Booklet.

Use the Prewriting/Planning space provided on pages 6 and 7 of your test booklet for organizing your ideas and developing a rough draft.

While it is important to plan your writing, your prewriting will **not** be scored. All that will be scored is what you write on the four lined pages provided in your Student Response Booklet. Do your best to make your writing thoughtful, complete, and well-organized.

You must either use a pen or a #2 pencil. You may use a dictionary and/or a thesaurus. No electronic equipment will be allowed.

This is an **independent** task. You may not work or confer with anyone.

On page 5 of your Student Response Booklet, use a #2 pencil to fill in the circle that identifies the number of the writing task you have chosen.

As you write and rewrite, remember to

- keep in mind the purpose of your writing;
- communicate with your reader;
- develop your ideas and details in an organized and complete manner;
- check your wording and sentence structure to see if they are the best choices; and
- check your spelling, punctuation, and capitalization.

WRITING TASK 7

SITUATION:

Your local school board has been looking into mandatory year-round schooling for students. This would consist of a revolving schedule that has students attending school for nine weeks, then off three weeks with an extended summer break of five weeks. The state has decided to allow local school boards to decide whether to implement this plan. Clearly there are pros and cons to this issue. The chart below lists some of the advantages and disadvantages that people have suggested for year-round schooling.

PROS

- Improves student attitude toward school
- Results in less boredom and greater enthusiasm among students
- Provides more personalized education services
- Lessens teacher “burnout” by providing more frequent (but shorter) vacations
- Allows families to enjoy wider variety of vacation experiences throughout the year

CONS

- Year-round schedule may interfere with sports programs and other extra-curricular activities
- May interfere with some traditional summer activities such as jobs
- Families may have children on different schedules
- Working parents may find it difficult to arrange child care during vacations
- Family lifestyle may be altered by eliminating traditional three-month vacation

WRITING TASK:

Write a letter to the Commissioner of Education about your thoughts in response to the proposal.

PURPOSE/AUDIENCE	<p>The degree to which the writer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● establishes and maintains a purpose ● communicates with the audience ● employs a suitable voice and/or tone
IDEA DEVELOPMENT/SUPPORT	<p>The degree to which the writer provides thoughtful, detailed support to develop main idea(s).</p>
ORGANIZATION	<p>The degree to which the writer demonstrates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● logical order ● coherence ● transitions/organizational signals
SENTENCES	<p>The degree to which the writer includes sentences that are</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● varied in structure and length ● constructed effectively ● complete and correct
LANGUAGE	<p>The degree to which the writer exhibits correct and effective</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● word choice ● usage
CORRECTNESS	<p>The degree to which the writer demonstrates correct</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● spelling ● punctuation ● capitalization

WRITING TASK 8

SITUATION:

In an effort to increase time in class and avoid problems with students in the halls, your principal has announced the following policy: "All travel times between classes and before and after lunch will be decreased by two minutes from this time forward."

WRITING TASK:

Write an editorial for your school or local newspaper that tells what you think about the principal's announcement. Be sure to explain the reasons for your position.

These criteria will be used to score your work.

PURPOSE/AUDIENCE	The degree to which the writer <ul style="list-style-type: none">● establishes and maintains a purpose● communicates with the audience● employs a suitable voice and/or tone
IDEA DEVELOPMENT/SUPPORT	The degree to which the writer provides thoughtful, detailed support to develop main idea(s).
ORGANIZATION	The degree to which the writer demonstrates <ul style="list-style-type: none">● logical order● coherence● transitions/organizational signals
SENTENCES	The degree to which the writer includes sentences that are <ul style="list-style-type: none">● varied in structure and length● constructed effectively● complete and correct
LANGUAGE	The degree to which the writer exhibits correct and effective <ul style="list-style-type: none">● word choice● usage
CORRECTNESS	The degree to which the writer demonstrates correct <ul style="list-style-type: none">● spelling● punctuation● capitalization

PREWRITING/PLANNING SPACE

WRITE THE FINAL COPY OF YOUR PIECE IN YOUR STUDENT RESPONSE BOOKLET.

PREWRITING/PLANNING SPACE

WRITE THE FINAL COPY OF YOUR PIECE IN YOUR STUDENT RESPONSE BOOKLET.

PLEASE STOP